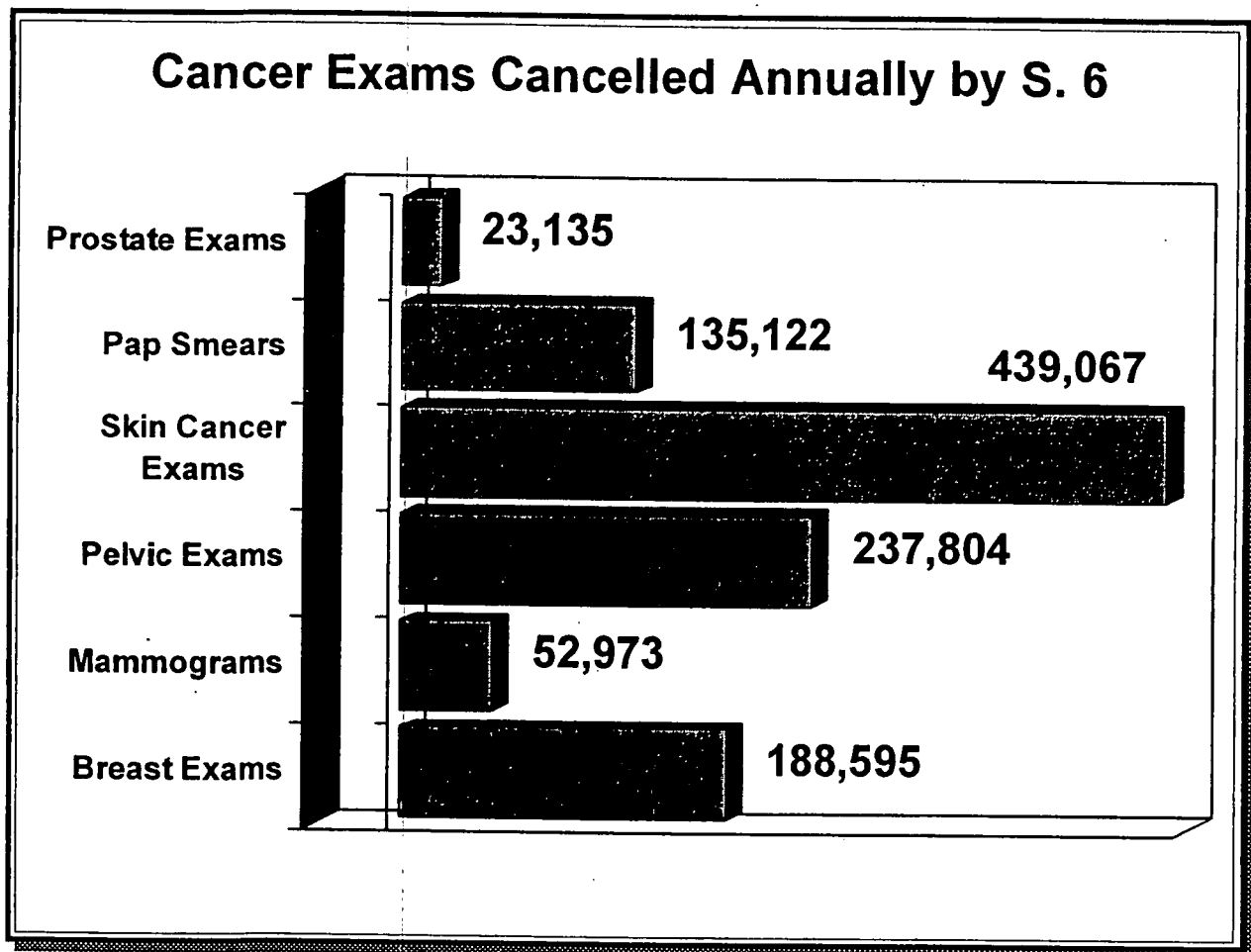


July 13, 1999

The Kennedy Bill Would Lead to More Cancer Fatalities

Last week President Clinton warned that the fate of patients' rights legislation will determine "whether some people live or some people die." He's right. If the Senate approves the Kennedy bill (S. 6), many more Americans may die unnecessarily from cancer and other diseases.

Sources: CBO, Barents Group, Employee Benefits Research Institute, Centers for Disease Control



CANCER SCREENING EXAMS CANCELLED BY S. 6, FIVE-YEAR IMPACT

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000-04
Breast Exams	188,595	188,595	188,595	188,595	188,595	942,976
Mammograms	52,973	52,973	52,973	52,973	52,973	264,866
Pelvic Exams	237,804	237,804	237,804	237,804	237,804	1,189,018
Skin Cancer Exams	439,067	439,067	439,067	439,067	439,067	2,195,335
Pap Smears	135,122	135,122	135,122	135,122	135,122	675,612
Prostate Exams	23,135	23,135	23,135	23,135	23,135	115,673

Sources: CBO, Barents Group, Employee Benefits Research Institute, Centers for Disease Control

Prostate cancer. Cervical cancer. Ovarian cancer. Uterine cancer. Breast cancer. Skin cancer. Because the Kennedy bill would cause 1.9 million Americans to lose their insurance, these people will be stripped of coverage for early-detection tests and other exams, and so more cases of cancer will go undiagnosed. Perhaps thousands will unnecessarily lose years of their lives because the Kennedy bill made health care coverage too expensive.

In contrast, the Republican "Patients' Bill of Rights Plus Act" (S. 300) honors the Hippocratic maxim, "First, do no harm." The Republican bill protects patients while increasing premiums less than 1 percent (CBO).

More importantly, the Republican bill's medical savings account (MSA) expansion and full deductibility for the self-employed will make coverage more affordable for millions. According to the General Accounting Office, 37 percent of participants in the limited MSA pilot program were previously uninsured.

RPC staff contact: Michael F. Cannon, 4-2946

(Sources: The CBO estimates S. 6 would increase private health insurance premiums an average of 6.1 percent. Data from the Barents Group, an economic forecasting firm, indicate this would cause 1.9 million Americans to lose coverage. This is consistent with a Lewin Group study commissioned by the AFL-CIO, which indicates the Kennedy bill would cause 1.8 million Americans to lose coverage. According to the Employee Benefits Research Institute, that is more than one out of every hundred non-elderly Americans with private coverage. The Centers for Disease Control collect data on various tests paid for by private health insurance.)